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The Clifford-Williamson House
(Arthur L. Faber House)
near Pattenburg, Hunterdon County,
New Jersey.

P H O T O G R A P H S

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA .

District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey.

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The Clifford - Williamson House
near Pattenburg, Union Township,
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Owners (and occupants): Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Faber
R.D. Box No. 1, Pattenburg

Date of Erection: In or before 1760, with early addition at
west end and later south wing.

Builders: Probably George Clifford (d. 1757) with additions by
son, James (d. 1782) and grandson Liout. John Clifford,
owner and occupant 1795-1842.

Present Condition: Original; stucco finish to exterior walls
changed to clapboards since 1860. Well
maintained by present owners.

Number of Stories: Two and a half, over cellar.

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber frame, clay-filled (*clap-boards not original*)

Interior walls - frame partitions, plastered

Chimnies - stone, built into inside of gable end
walls

Roof - gable, wood shingles replaced by slate
about 1910. *See photos 1878 and 1941.*

Historical Data:

The identification of this house, published in 1881
as following quoted, and verified by search of title, establish-
es its association value as the homestead of an officer of the
County Militia called into service during the War for Indepen-
dence, 1776-1783.

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"John Clifford, first lieutenant in Capt. Carhart's company, 2nd regiment, Hunterdon County, who lived many years in this township, on the farm on which his great grandson, Joseph Williamson, now resides* has said that General William Maxwell, during the Revolution, was frequently at the Union Furnace". (a)

The following obituary notice appeared in the 19 August 1842 issue of the Emporium & True American:-

"At his residence in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, N.J., on the 2d inst., in the full possession of his mental faculties, JOHN CLIFFORD, in the 94th year of his age, being born on the 10th day of January 1749. At the commencement of the Revolutionary War, and previous to the Declaration of Independence, he received a Lieutenant's commission from the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, and marched directly in Capt. Houghton's Company with the first troops that were called from Hunterdon for the defense of New York, and served in that capacity for a number of campaigns during the war, and was in some of the most warmest engagements, especially those of Long Island, White Plains, and Monmouth. In his political principles, he was a warm and undeviating Republican on the principles of government laid down by Jefferson. In his religion with a due regard for the opinions of others, he adhered to that of his father's, the Presbyterian, and has left this transitory scene at an age among many thousands that are born but few arrive at. An appropriate discourse was delivered at his funeral by the Rev. Holloway W. Hunt, toward the close of which he dwelt with a Master hand on the Reminiscences of the Revolution, the dangers, losses and sufferings of those Patriots who lived and acted in those times that tried men's souls". (b)

* The map of Union Township, plate 42 of Beers' Atlas of Hunterdon County, N.J., 1878, shows the house (here surveyed) marked P.R. Williamson in S.E. cor. of the cross-roads about a half mile west of Pattenburg P.O. He died in that year, having devised the farm to his son Joseph Williamson abovenamed.

(a) Extract from Chapter on Union Twp., Hunterdon Co., page 517 of Snell's History of Hunterdon & Somerset Cos. 1881. On page 101 the name of John Clifford aged 92 in list of veterans living in Bethlehem Twp. 1840 pensioned for service in the Revolution. Union Twp. created from Bethlehem Twp. 1852-53.

(b) The wife of a descendant of Lieut. John Clifford, Mrs. Reuben Williamson, aged 93 in 1941, states his burial in Bethlehem Presbyterian Churchyard at Grandin. No gravestone for him appears there, we are informed.

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In an affidavit taken 20 October 1832 before Benjamin Egbert, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Hunterdon County, N.J., and filed in support of his claim for U.S. Pension on account of his military services in the Revolution, John Clifford stated that he was born in Bethlehem Twp., 10 January 1749 as recorded in his father's bible, that he was living in Pittstown, Kingwood Township, when called into service, and that since the Revolution he remained there until removal to Amwell Township where he lived five years and then returned to Bethlehem Township where he has since lived, at least 35 years. The name of his father is not stated.

A full report of his military service forms a major part of this affidavit, beginning with enlistment in 1776 for a five months tour, commission as Lieutenant, march from Pittstown to New York, Battle of Long Island, retreat through New Jersey under Genl. Washington, re-enlistment in December 1776, march as first Lieut. in Capt. Jacob Geerhart's company under command of Major Nathaniel Pettit to "collect all the water craft that could be found in the Delaware River between Easton and Sherrerd's ferry, Frenchtown, and bring them to Frenchtown to assist Gen. Lee's army crossing the Delaware from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, and after performing this duty, crossed over the Delaware with Major Pettit and joined Genl. Washington's army as a volunteer, acting as Lieutenant with the army until the 25 day of that month and then returned by order of Capt. Jacob Houghton to New Jersey with money to pay the men that served under him in the late five months tour".

The affidavit continues with John Clifford marching again from Pittstown, N.J., in February 1777 as first Lieutenant under Capt. Geerhart to Millstone, and in June from Pittstown in the same company to Sourland Mountain and to Short Hills, to Newark, all within 14 days and without action. In June 1778 he marched from Quakertown by way of Pennington to the Battle of Monmouth in the same company, a one month tour of service. In June 1779, he marched from Quakertown in the same company to Millstone River camp to watch the enemy movements on the New-Brunswick-Princeton road, thence to Passaic Falls, and home by way of Morristown, a 16-day tour of service. In June 1780, he marched again from Quakertown in the same company to Elizabeth, and to Newark, a 14-day tour; in June 1781 from Quakertown to Springfield, the British being in Elizabeth, a tour of 14 days without action. Total term of service, 10 months and 6 days. John Clifford was inscribed on the Pension Roll of New Jersey at the rate of \$127.99 per annum, as of 4 March 1831. (c)

(c) Abstracts from photostatic copy of original affidavit filed in The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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Lieutenant John Clifford, born 10 January 1748/9, in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County, N.J., of parentage not here determined (d), possibly in the house here surveyed (and which he owned at time of death), resided at Pittstown, a village five miles south of the house, 1776-1790, removed to Amwell Township, same County, 1790-95, and returned to Bethlehem Township 1795 where he had lived 35 years as he stated in 1832, and died there 2 August 1842 in 94th year. He is said to have married Martha Hunt, widow, of Pennington, Mercer County, daughter of Reuben Armitage, and had issue viz. Enoch Clifford born 28 January 1780, died 16 September 1861, unmarried, in this house; Charles Clifford who died 1857 in Hopewell Twp., Mercer County; and Elizabeth who married Kitchen Hartpence of Franklin Twp., Warren County. (e)

The estate of Lieutenant John Clifford, deceased 1842, not appearing in the probate records of Hunterdon County, nor any deed from him, it is evident that his real estate descended accordingly to his two sons and daughter as heirs-at-law of an intestate, as the following conveyance thereof indicates.

Thus, by deed of 8 April 1845, Charles Clifford of Hopewell Township and Enoch Clifford of Bethlehem Township, both Hunterdon County, and Kitchen Hartpence of Franklin Township Warren County, conveyed to (Charles' son-in-law) Peter William-son of said Bethlehem Township, for \$2908.81, a "certain farm or plantation" of 130.44 acres there, describing its boundary lines as follows, viz.

Beginning at a stone heap called the L.M. corner being corner to lands of Sarah Case and John Opdyke, thence (1) along said Opdyke and Enoch Clifford's line S 60-3/4 degrees E 16.30 chains to a stake in the middle of the road from Hickory Tavern to Pattenburg, being a corner of said

(d) One George Clifford appears in town records of Hopewell, Hunterdon (now Mercer) Co. 1738 to 1751, probably that testator of same name, of Bethlehem Twp., same County, whose will dated 8 Nov. 1757, and proved 12 Dec. 1757, named wife Mary and children John, James, Mary, Margaret, Sarah, and Anna who had a son George (N.J. Archives XXXII, 61), of whom James Clifford is apparently the testator of that name, whose will dated Bethlehem Twp. 6 June 1780, proved¹ Jan. 1782, names sons George, John and Edward and grandson James son of Charles Clifford (N.J. Archives XXXV, 84) of whom John may be our subject. No conveyances in the name of these Cliffords are found in the land records of Hunterdon Co., nor in the earlier records of same, including mortgages from 1737, filed in office of Secretary of State.

(e) Information from obituary notice, a pension affidavit, and Mr. Charles Williamson of Tabor, Morris County, a great grandson, 1941.

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Clifford and Thomas J. Stires; thence (2) along the middle of said road and Stire's line N 63-1/2 degrees E 31.50 chains to a stake at the cross-roads, a corner to Stires'; thence (3) along said Stires and in part along the middle of the road from Jugtown to Pittstown S 31 degrees 15 min. E 37.56 chains to a stake, corner to Warford, Buchanan and Stires; thence (4) along said Warford, Buchanan and Stires N 53 degrees E 22.71 chains to a stake, a corner to Henry Stires and Peter Hardy; thence (5) along said Hardy's line N 2 1/2 degrees E 10 chains to a chestnut tree; thence (6) along the same line N 34-3/4 degrees E 11.42 chains to a hickory tree; thence (7) still along said line N 7.18 chains to a sassafras tree, corner to Hardy and John Case's line; thence (8) along said Case S 67 deg. W 8.49 chains to a white oak tree; thence (9) along said Case N 36 1/2 deg. W 3.61 chains to a stone; thence (10) along said Case S 63 1/2 deg. W 23.76 chains to a large chestnut tree; thence (11) still along said Case and the heirs of Wm. Conover N 35 1/2 deg. W 21.62 chains to a stake, a corner to said Conover; thence (12) still along their lines S 77 1/2 deg. W 6 chains to a stake on the bridge, corner to Conover's and Sarah Case's lands; thence (13) along said Case and crossing the brook S 26-3/4 deg W .76 chains to a willow tree on the bank of said brook; thence (14) up the brook to the place of beginning. With all and singular the Houses, buildings, etc. No recital of grantors' title appears in the deed. (Recorded in Hunterdon Co. Deed Book No. 91, page 131.)

(f)

And by deed of 4 April 1848, the said Enoch Clifford of Bethlehem Township conveyed to said Peter R. Williamson of same place, for \$81.10, an additional 3.65 acres at the west end of the above tract, adding some 425 feet frontage on the northwest side of the road to Pattenburg. (Recorded in Deed Book No. 91, page 134) These two deeds above cited contain the earliest description of the premises in question found on record.

(f) Enoch Clifford, b. 28 Jan. 1780, son of Lieut. John and Martha (Armitage-Hunt) Clifford, d. 15 Sept. 1861, at residence of nephew Peter R. Williamson, Esq., in Union Twp., Hunterdon Co., in 82nd year, unmarried. Assemblyman 1825-31; Coroner of Bethlehem Twp., 1813; Justice of the Peace 1819; Overseer of the Poor 1824; Freeholder 1827; Town Committee 1825-31; Volunteer in War of 1812; Democrat. (From Obituary notice and Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Cos., N.J., 1881, pp 256-7, 261, 263, 459 and 460.)

Peter R. Williamson (g) the grantee abovenamed, of Union Twp., Hunterdon Co., by his will of 30 October 1878, proved 25 November following, devised to his "son Joseph Williamson my homestead farm in the township of Union whereon I now dwell, adjoining lands of Isaac B. Case, Henry Merrell and Gardner Housted and contains about 116 acres". (Hunterdon County Will Book 13, page 326.)

This Joseph Williamson, son and devisee abovenamed, occupied this house of his great grandfather, Lieut. John Clifford, in 1881 as cited in note (a). He dying intestate in 1900, the property descended to his heirs, Anna B., wife of Harry A. Cowell, and Bertha Williamson.

These heirs conveyed the homestead farm of 134 acres to Edward P. Hummer of same township of Union, by their deed of 23 August 1929, (recorded in Book 380, page 323) describing an irregular tract centering on the crossing of the road "from Hickory Tavern to Pattenburg"* with the road "from Jugtown to Pittstown" and bounded northwest by a brook (Monselaughaway Creek or Big Brook), reciting it being the same tract conveyed to Peter R. Williamson in 1845 and 1848 as above stated. The grantee, Hummer, conveyed the same to Charles W. Geist of High Bridge, in same county, by deed of 28 May 1930, (recorded in Book 383, page 443) and Geist to Frank Sedlack and wife, of Passaic, N.J. by his deed of 21 June next, (Book 384, page 143) 50 acres thereof, including this house. Sedlack was residing there in Union Township on 23 June 1937, the date of the deed (recorded in Book 411, page 291) by which he passed title to part of the tract to Zoe B., wife of Arthur L. Faber of Manhattan, N.Y.C. Mr. and Mrs. Faber remain as owners and occupants of this house at the time of our survey thereof in May 1941. Mr. Faber is a Lieutenant, U.S. Naval Reserve.

(g) Peter R. Williamson, b. 4 May 1808, d. 8 Nov. 1878, married 9 June 1829, Charity Clifford (by Holloway W. Hunt D.D.) b. 18 Jan. 1808, d. 18 Dec. 1901, bur. Baptist Churchyard near Pattenburg, and had issue:- Ann Maria b. 1 March 1830, d. 13 Dec. 1835; Charles C. b. 15 May 1832, d. 3 Feb. 1871; Jane Eliza b. 29 Oct. 1835; John R. b. 22 Apr. 1837; Enoch b. 14 Jan. 1840; Reuben A. b. 31 Aug. 1842; and Joseph b. 2 Jan. 1849. (From Williamson family bible, copied by Mrs. Arthur L. Faber, 1941) In the photograph of this house about 1898, (copy herewith) the persons from left to right are Mrs. Joseph Williamson (Bertha Race), Anna Belle Williamson (Mrs. David Firth), who resides 1941 in Pattenburg, Agnes Williamson, and Joseph Williamson.

* Pattenburg, formerly Calvin's Mills, was named for the distillery erected there by Samuel Cummings and one Dolphin about 1812 for making rye whiskey by a patent process. (Snell, History of Hunterdon & Somerset, 1881, page 511.)

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References:

Search of title in Hunterdon County records by William Brown, H.A.B.S. research editor, reported 21 May 1941.

Application for U.S. Pension by John Clifford, 1832.

J.P. Snell, History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, N.J., 1881, pages 92 and 517, 256-57, 261, 263, 459 and 460, and 511.

Emporium and True American, Trenton, 19 Aug. 1842, for obituary notice of Lieut. John Clifford.

N.J. Archives vols. XXXII, 81, and XXXV, 84.

Family records written in Williamson Bible

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian
27 June 1942

Approved:

District Officer